

Toyland's Neutrality Violated!

MERRIE CHRISTMASVILLE

(Via Wireless to Father's Parlor). Just before Christmas. Refugees from Kris Kringle Island and Reindeer City declare the neutrality of Toyland has been violated and a hostile army of German infantrymen, accompanied by artillerymen using twenty-inch guns, assisted by the British Navy, have driven the Teddy Bear, Fuzzy Wuzzy and other old favorites out of the pack of Santa Claus, and forced them to retreat with heavy losses.

When last seen, Old General Woolly Sheep was taking steps with his seven league boots in the direction of the woods where he is appealing to childhood to come to his rescue. Messages from various department stores, children's shops and novelty houses show soldiers of all kinds have invaded the counters, and it matters not what the sympathies of the buyers may be, he can get soldiers of any nationality for the Christmas stocking.

There are Belgian lancers, French Zouaves, Turcos, Hindoos, Cossacks, Scottish Highlanders, Hungarians, Serbs, Turks, Austrians, Germans, English, Canadians, Bohemians to be had in wood, metal and paper types.

In addition all the equipment for a regular battle can be found on the counters. Old-time games report they have withdrawn within their defenses and the conditions are satisfactory all along the line from the kindergarten games to the brand new "Made in America" toys. Dolls' houses are still on sale and contend that the houses and the dolls both have won success by a masterly retreat.

But an exclusive dispatch from the heart of the shopping district declares that shoppers have been seen for several weeks departing from the toy centers with their pockets full of ammunition with which they intend to fill the stockings of their children. Some of these military toys were made in Germany, the land of toys. But many of them have been made in America.

Large rapid fire guns of metal, shooting rubber balls with considerable velocity, may be had for \$1 and \$2, and a siege gun with a lever which fires a 1-inch cork is priced at 50 cents.

One firm is offering a war game called "Maneuvers" based on rudimentary military strategy. The idea is new and interesting, but the game is too complicated for the younger children.

One store is showing a motor truck, driven by a spring mechanism, provided with metal soldier passengers and hauling a toy cannon. Another shows a tin Zeppelin which travels on a cord stretched across the room. The novelty of this toy is an automatic device which drops bombs on the nursery towns and troops below. A submarine, christened the "U-9," dives and travels rapidly in water. All these are \$1 each.

A more intelligent toy for older boys is the monoplane or flying boat in knockdown form. Blueprints to guide in putting it together are furnished. Some of the planes are armored. And they really fly, being driven by heavy rubber bands. They cost from \$4 to \$25.

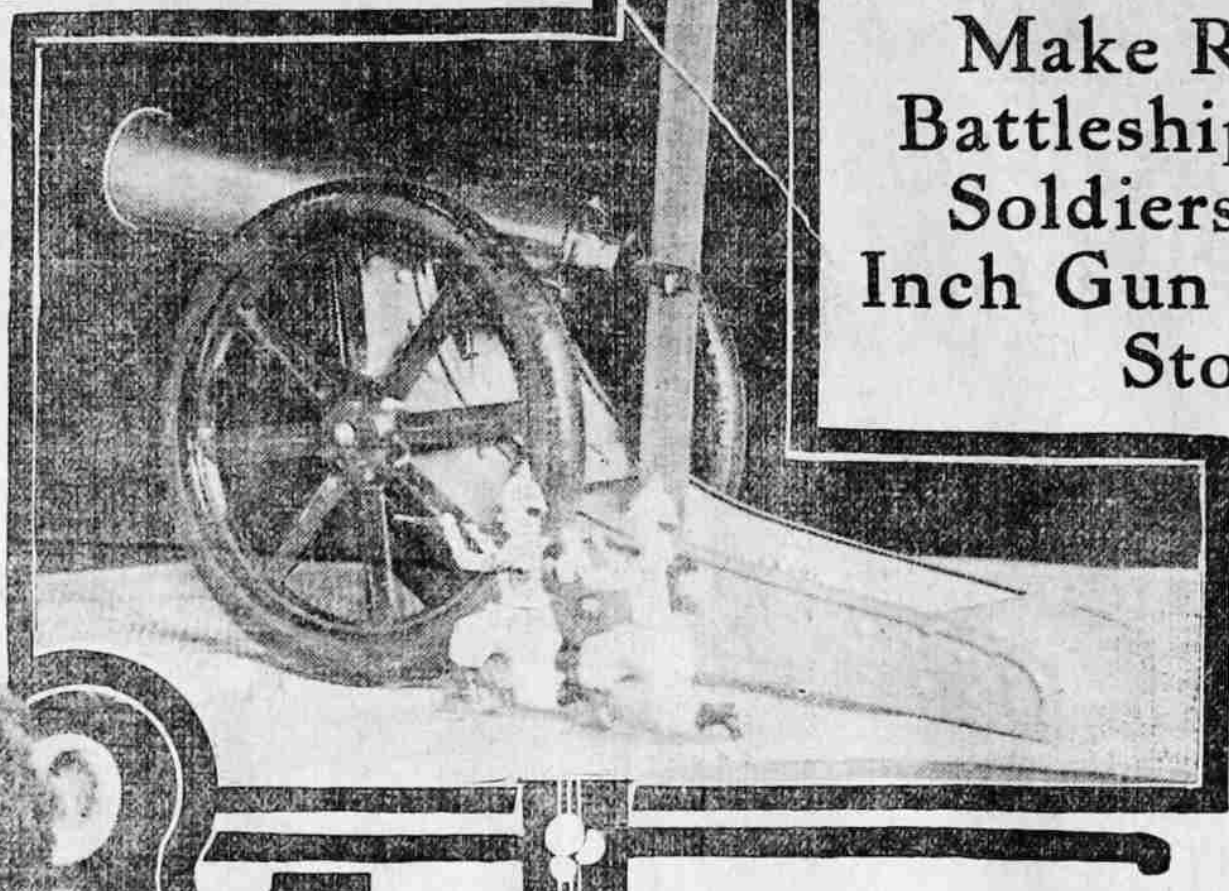
The toy makers have neglected the Red Cross and the Belgian relief work, possibly because the idea is hardly virile enough to appeal to the children. Neither have they had time to produce the destruction of Rhine in game form.

AMERICAN TOY FACTORIES RECEIVE GREAT BOOST.

Toy factories in America have received a great boost from the European War. According to unofficial communications which have passed among several American concerns gave orders to enlarge their plans for Christmas toys as soon as they learned Germany had declared war on France. They realized there would be a better market for toys in America than there ever has been because the old supply points had been cut off. American buyers in Germany, the land of toys, were in Europe making purchases when

Toy making is a comparatively modern industry. In this country children were given home-made toys, such as rag dolls, in the early days.

The value of great events in the manufacture of toys was first taken advantage of in Germany. The Germans saw that children would play at what their elders were talking about. When a nation is at war the children play war. The war of 1812 saw the introduction of military toys in America. When the German toy manufacturers learned that America and England were at war they manufactured lead soldiers with red coats to represent the British. To oppose them they had blue-coated soldiers to represent the Americans. The Americans were provided with toy cannon which would roll a lead ball over the floor and knock over the British soldiers. These were shipped



mechanical toy, which will do all the work itself.

The same principle applies to the making of gilded animals. While a child will love a woolly sheep until its wool is worn to the wooden skeleton, it tires of the sheep more quickly than of the constructive toy.

Among the constructive playthings made this year is a box of discs and metal spring blocks, which can be fastened together to make intricate structures. Dutch windmills, bridges, houses, tables, chairs, robbers' dens, forts, battle-ships, factories, cities, sheep pastures filled with sheep are among the things that can be made by combining this box of devices.

The cheaper sets have plans for the making of twenty devices. More expensive sets have plans for making seventy-five various structures.

The children will work for hours over these devices and enjoy themselves because their brains are active. These kind of playthings are considered the best for mothers with "nerves." They do away with the noise of trumpets, drums, trains and siege artillery.

Children's modeling clay is another of the constructive things children have been playing with.

Teddy Bear and Fuzzy Wuzzy Monkey Take to the Woods to Make Room for a Battleship Fleet and Soldiers With 20-Inch Gun in Christmas Stocking

delivery boys have helped the fighting men across the thresholds of the homes done up in bundles to look like dry goods.

Ends Non-Resistance.

About 1744 Great Britain was at war with Spain and France. Among the American colonies, Pennsylvania was the only one that was absolutely defenseless. The Quaker assembly refused to pass a militia law, and there was no reason why the enemies of the mother country could not sail up the Delaware, land a force and devastate the commonwealth.

Benjamin Franklin was just coming into public life. He had changed the old night watchman system into a regulated police force, formed a volunteer fire brigade, founded a public library and established the Philosophical Society. He was determined that Pennsylvania should no longer be defenseless—the doctrine of non-resistance to the contrary notwithstanding. After publishing a pamphlet, entitled "Plain Truth," he called a meeting of the younger citizens of Philadelphia, harangued them on the impending obliteration of the city by the Spaniards and French, called for volunteers and then there raised a regiment of 1,200 men. Within a very brief period adjacent places contributed their quota, and Pennsylvania had an organized, drilled and accoutred militia 10,000 strong.

When it came to providing artillery Franklin's ingenuity again sufficed. By means of a lottery, enough money was raised to construct fortifications and purchase cannon, some from Boston and some from England. These were deemed insufficient. Franklin headed a committee to wait upon Governor Clinton and borrow additional guns. Clinton refused to lend, but the same night at dinner he softened by degrees under the influence of Madeira that with each bumper he offered Pennsylvania the loan of more and more artillery, until his proffer reached eighteen mounted cannon, which duly arrived in this city.

That was 170 years ago. Ten thousand men, supported by artillery, was not considered more than adequate for the defense of the sparsely populated commonwealth. Man for man, by hardness and resourcefulness, the rank and file must have been much above the level of the paid soldiery of Europe, as the subsequent Revolutionary War amply demonstrated. In view of the fact that there are nations today that consider no treaty binding, who can wonder if our military experts are seriously alarmed over the unpreparedness of the United States even for a defensive war? When the armies now in the field in the European strife are counted in units of a million, our regular and militia combined are a pitiful handful, and would be swept from the field in an engagement that is called only a skirmish on the scale in which wars are conducted today.



Small Boy Discovers Soldiers Concealed in His Mother's Wardrobe

(From Our Special Correspondent at the Front.)

ST. NICHOLASOVITCH, Dec. 24 (8:30 a. m.).—Johnny Jones and his sister Sue discovered great stores of ammunition, together with three armies of Russians, four corps of Germans, three squadrons of the British Navy, eighteen battalions of Belgian infantry and hordes of Japanese, all flying the flag of Andorra, concealed in mother's wardrobe.

Plans were found in possession of the generals, showing they were planning to take position of the tree on Christmas Eve.

While the children were inspecting the soldiers' footwear, their mother found them.

"Get out of here," she cried. She turned the children over (deleted by censor).

Germans make the toy that sells there. In the United States we have advanced to the point where we will make what we want ourselves. When we can advance to the point where we will make what the people of the South American countries want we can compete successfully for their trade, whether it be in substantial goods or mere toys.

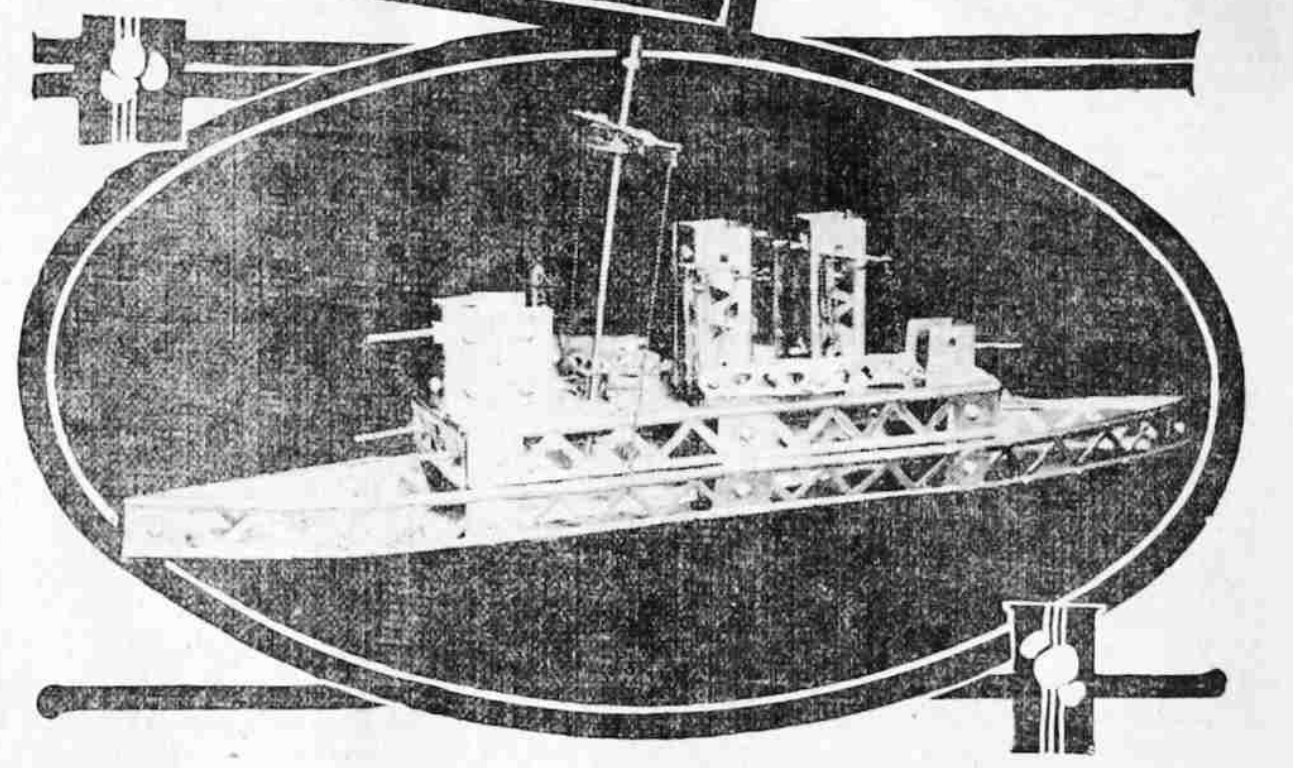
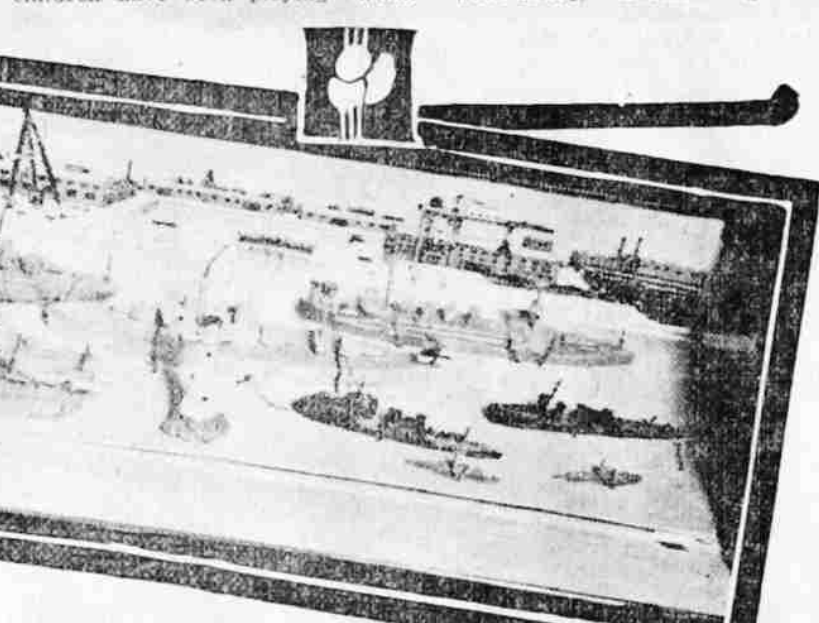
How the news of the day figures in the toys can be shown in the Panama Canal digger. That is an American toy. Children were interested in the Panama Canal so the digger was created. It was a success from the start. It still is sold and is quite an adjunct to the sand pile. It is such a simple toy that children can get lots of fun out of it.

Since the success of the kindergarten has been so pronounced, and since Madame Montessori has urged that children should have constructive toys, American manufacturers have turned their attention to the making of constructive toys. That was carried out by the Germans in the making of building blocks. Children can play with building blocks and entertain themselves longer than if they have a

real water wagon. If you have nerve enough left after this experience you can fish for sea bass or tuna or sword fish, or let them fish for you—it amounts to the same thing.

San Diego is to the southward, and there a big exposition starts on January 1. Coronado beach is the tried and true feature at San Diego, but the big international show will add a lot of zest to the historic old resort in 1915.

Mount Lowe is one of the features to be easily reached from Los Angeles and thereupon is the great observatory from which one may easily see the gold inlays in the bliscups of the Man in the moon, or the sixteen-inch siege roses growing in the winter gardens of Hollywood.



WHILE OSTEND IS DESOLATE, AMERICAN BEAUTY SPOTS CHARM AS MUCH AS EVER IN THEIR HISTORY

Ostend is desolate now. Only soldiers promenade its vast porches and beaches, while there is military menace constantly from land, sea and sky. Pleasure-seekers who formerly frequented this and other European coast resorts will have to seek other fields for similar diversion for some time to come. Without Ostend and the like—what?

Why not the famed but scantily appreciated beaches and resorts of California? Why not Coronado, Long Beach, Venice and the other wonderful stretches along the softly lapping shore-wash of the Pacific?

Isn't it a shame that Americans have to stay in America for awhile? Why, out in California they have more wonders to the square inch than were dreamed of in Horatio's philosophy—and Horatio was a

Dane, according to all reports. Saying nothing of the beaches, which are so vivacious and at the same time soothing to the careworn soul that they satisfy all appetites at once, there are the wondrous auto drives and short sea trips of Southern California—drives and trips fit for the gods.

Los Angeles furnishes a thousand little side trips, famous and yet inexpensive, perhaps the best known of which is that to Santa Catalina Island, thirty miles out in the Pacific and the home of the deep sea sportsmen. They have glass-bottomed boats out there, in which you sit and peer down into the inmost thoughts of old Doc Neptune. You can scarcely believe what you see in those deep sea gardens, no matter how long you have been on the

real water wagon. If you have nerve enough left after this experience you can fish for sea bass or tuna or sword fish, or let them fish for you—it amounts to the same thing.

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Los Angeles houses more millions than any other city in the United States, it is said, and they aren't a bit backward about spending some of their wampum in the interests of a general good time. That is what put the city on the map.

Epon reaching San Francisco you are likely to become firmly convinced that it is a considerable village. If they had anything in Europe that could excel her in lively good times on extremely wholesome and business-like lines it must have been a while of a place. San Francisco has a cafe life that makes New York jealous and Chicago bilious, while her Chinatown and Golden Gate Park and Mount Tamalpais over the bay, and a thousand other things add to the fun to be had almost for nothing.

San Francisco is a really great city, and Uncle Sam had acknowledged that fact by protecting it with wonderfully mysterious coast defenses along the Golden Gate. Ammense disappearing guns of unknown caliber in equally mysterious concrete and steel fortifications lurk along the shores for prospective foes, while inside the bay are Alcatraz and Angel Islands, both fortified, and the former a government prison.

The short, cheap and remarkably interesting trip to be made out of any given point in San Francisco to many. You may take the ferry to Sausalito, the electric to Mill Valley and the "crookedest railroad in the world" to the summit of Mount Tamalpais for almost nothing, and there you will have a chance to see

everything that one should really see in a lifetime. Another ferry takes one to Berkeley, where reposes the great Greek open air theater, while another big ferry takes you to Oakland, which is making San Francisco go some in commercial enterprise just now, as well as being a city of homes. The Golden Gate Park, the Cliff House, with the accompanying seal rocks and Japanese tea garden, are even closer than the stunts named before.

Enough has already been said of the Panama-Pacific Exposition to open at San Francisco February 20. Its immensity and grandeur can scarcely be described in so short a space.

In California, also, is America's only active volcano—Mount Lassen,

which is but a short distance from Redding, in the north central part of the State. It will be made easily accessible to travelers.

On the return trip the jaunt through the Sierras is an experience not soon to be forgotten, and among the sights of interest on route are the old deserted gold fields near Dutch Flats, where hydraulic pressure was employed in securing the precious metal.

Altogether a trip to California would prove every bit as interesting as a jaunt across into Europe.

Neighborhood Advice.

"Which would you advise me to sow here—turnip seed or winter spinach?" "Candor compels me to tell you that my chickens prefer turnip seed."—Boston Globe.